

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 009428

R 220716Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2867

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4643

EXDIS

EA/PHL FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJECT: AMBUSH KILLING OF THREE USN OFFICERS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT COMNAVBASE

SUBIC 191044Z APR SENT ACTION CINCPACFLT INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA,  
CINCPAC H/W REPEATED FOR

YOUR INFO:

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL SPECAT

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR ADM WEISNER INFO AMB SULLIVAN  
AND ADM GAYLER FROM SHELTON

DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

AMBUSH KILLINGS THREE USN OFFICERS

A. MY 150358Z APR 74

B. MY 171452Z APR 74

1. FOLLOWING INFO PROVIDED TO FURTHER UPDATE SUBJ INCIDENT.

2. A SECOND ON-SCENE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY NISO PERS

ON 18 APRIL DISCLOSED:

A. FIVE AMBUSH POSITIONS WERE NOTED ALONG  
THE EAST SIDE OF  
ROAD (THE JEEP WAS TRAVELLING NORTH). SHELL CASING OF VARIOUS  
CALIBER AMMO WAS RECOVERED FROM THESE POSITIONS WITH EXCEPTION  
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OF THE POSITION FARthest FROM JEEP WHERE TWO CIGARETTE BUTTS

WERE RECOVERED. THE FIVE "POSITIONS" COULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN SEVERALMINUTES TIME; THEIR EXISTENCE SIGNIFIES THAT THE AMBUSH WAS PLANNED IN ADVANCE, ALBEIT PERHAPS ONLY AN HOUR BEFORE.

B. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF WEAPONS FIRE APPROX FIFTEEN-TWENTY FEET DOWN THE RAVINE BEYOND THE LOCATION WHERE THE BODIES WERE RECOVERED. THIS SUGGEST THAT CAPT MITCHELL AND CDR DOBLER WERE ABLE TO EXIT THE JEEP AND GET OVER TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE ROAD UNDER THEIR OWN POWER BEFORE THE FATAL SHOTS HIT.

C. TWENTY-SIX CAL .30 M1 CARBINE CASINGS PLUS TWO CAL .30 LIVE ROUNDS WERE RECOVERED FROM ONE FIRING POSITION LOCATED AT THE RIGHT REAR QUARTER. TOTAL AMMO RECOVERED IS:

(1) TWENTY-NINE CAL .30 M1 CARBINE CASINGS PLUS FOUR LIVE CAL .30 ROUNDS.

(2) THREE 12 GAUGE SHOTGUN CASINGS

(3) THREE EPMPY CASINGS

(4) THREE 5.56 CASINGS

(5) FOUR CAL. .380 CASINGS

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THERE WERE TWO CARBINE FIRING POSITIONS.

3. FIVE OFFICERS FROM THE OFFICE OF CIVIL RELATIONS, HQ AFP CAMP AGUINALDO, ARRIVED MAKINAYA (LOCAL PC HDQTRS) TODAY. THEIR MISSION IS TO "CONTACT AND EVICT THE SQUATTERS FROM THE NAVAL BASE". THEY'LL COMMENCE OPERATIONS ON 22 APRIL IN MANIGA (NEAR NAVMAG).

4. FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED AS OCCURRING.

5. VERY RESPECTFULLY AND WAR REGARDS. UNQUOTE  
PURNELL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES, PARAMILITARY FORCES, MILITARY BASES, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MANILA04643  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740093-0576  
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**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBUSH KILLING OF THREE USN OFFICERS FOLLOWING IS REPEAT COMNAVBASE  
**TAGS:** MARR, RP, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005